

Application Serial No. 09/591,708
Docket No. 00-8010

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a node operative within a network of a plurality of nodes, a method for performing cryptographic-related functions, comprising:
- executing an application program at the [[network]] node which need not be highly secured;
- receiving an input requiring cryptographic-related processing;
- generating a message via the application program based on the input, the message representing one of a predefined set of messages for processing by a cryptographic processing component located within the [[network]] node;
- transmitting the message to the cryptographic processing component; and
- performing the cryptographic-related processing by the cryptographic processing component.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the cryptographic-related processing includes at least one of:
- verifying or generating a digital signature; encrypting data; decrypting data;
- retrieving a digital certificate or certificate revocation list; verifying a certificate's hierarchy; self-signed certificate processing; retrieving, verifying and storing a digital certificate in the node; or certificate age checking.

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